

In the Claims:

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Claim 20 (amended). A gathering stapler, comprising:

a plurality of cooperating subassemblies including an operatively revolving endless chain having a conveying strand running in a conveying direction and conveying gathered folded sheets;

a stapling carriage assigned to said conveying strand and operatively oscillating in parallel with said conveying strand for running in synchronicity with said conveying strand in the conveying direction within certain time segments;

*Cia'* stapling heads mounted to said stapling carriage and adapted for ejecting staples;

a stapling displacement configuration adapted for activating said stapling heads for ejecting said staples;

a delivery;

an ejector adapted for operatively oscillating in parallel with said conveying strand for running in synchronicity with said conveying strand in the conveying direction within certain time segments and for operatively oscillating between

said conveying strand and said delivery within a path  
rectilinear to said conveying strand within certain time  
segments; and

aa) a plurality of subassembly drives;

concl. at least some of said subassembly drives each including a  
controllable motor.

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